

MEMORANDUM

TO: Invasive Species Advisory Council Early Detection and Rapid Response Subcommittee

FROM: Stephen Phillips, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission

SUBJECT: EDRR Subcommittee Conference Call Notes (11/22/10)

DATE: November 23, 2010

Thanks to all of you that participated in the call yesterday. Below is a brief synopsis of some of the highlights and action items of our discussion. If you have edits on anything below, please just “reply all” to this email.

1. PCR White Paper

We discussed the upcoming December EDRR subcommittee meeting. For the meeting, it was decided that we would invite John Darling (EPA) to call-in to discuss his ongoing work on PCR and management implications.

Action: Stephen will follow-up with John D. about calling in, Chris D./Kelsey B. will arrange a CC line for the EDRR meeting (sounds like this has already been handled).

On the PCR issue, Chris D. discussed the importance of policy and management implications of PCR technology and what role ISAC can play.

Stephen P. discussed the timeline of how the EDRR subcommittee should approach the issue, including the PCR white paper outline, and a potential interim meeting of ISAC in the spring.

On the white paper, Chris mentioned that we should refer to the Biofuels paper as an example of how to proceed, http://www.invasivespecies.gov/home_documents/BiofuelWhitePaper.pdf. Chris agreed that holding an interim full ISAC meeting in the Spring could be possible OR we could also pursue the issue through additional EDRR subcommittee via conference call.

Action: We will need to discuss our options on how best to proceed at the December subcommittee (and ISAC) meeting.

Ann G. agreed that if the issue is deemed urgent that a virtual interim meeting would be possible. Ann also mentioned the ISAC Climate Change White Paper as another example of how to proceed on a PCR whitepaper.

David S. said that the three issues we are dealing with on the PCR issue are 1) Technology 2) Validation Process and 3) Regulation

Kris S-K discussed the regulatory hurdles issue and whether this should be included in the white paper.

Bob M said maybe we should leave regulatory hurdles portion out of the white paper. Maybe do more than one white paper, with the first concentrating on technology and certification.

David said make regulatory hurdles a subarea of the document.

Chris said that since PCR is newer technology, it is unclear who should be in charge of regulatory oversight.

Nathan S. mentioned that PCR is being proposed in the state of Michigan to test bait hauling trucks for presence of Asian carp (in a regulatory capacity). This needs to be pointed out in the white paper [as this is an example of how PCR is being applied in the real world but we still have questions as to the efficacy and oversight of the technology].

David mentioned that USDA has a well established oversight program for PCR and we may want to look at this.

Ann added that PCR has been used for years with pathogens.

Ed M. added that anywhere we can get experience on how PCR certification/validation would be helpful.

Bob M. big problem with PCR is false positives.

Action: In preparation for the December EDRR subcommittee meeting, Stephen will work with David and Nathan draft an outline on the process and content for the PCR white paper.

Action: Steve S. will send out his December ISAC meeting presentation “New York DEC Rapid Response Framework” to Kris, Ed and Jennifer V. prior to the ISAC meeting (to help inform the regulatory hurdles issue).

2. Rapid Response Funding

Chris spoke on the possible establishment of a rapid response fund. There have been discussions with ISAC staff and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation about establishing the fund. NFWF runs numerous private/public partnership accounts. Tim M. said that these accounts run from the thousands to over \$100 million. If this all comes together, ISAC may be able to serve in establishing the criteria and process for the grants process. The EDRR subcommittee agreed that they are interested in working on this topic.

Action: Chris will send Stephen the draft document on the fund to distribute to the EDRR subcommittee prior to the ISAC meeting for review. We will further discuss this agenda item at the December meeting.

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